

which discourage the investigation and prosecution of such activities;

Whereas the continued, large-scale transportation of narcotic and psychotropic drugs and other controlled substances from Mexico into the United States is very detrimental to the vital interests of the United States;

Whereas not later than March 1, 1996, the President must determine and report to Congress pursuant to section 490A(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291k(b)) whether Mexico has taken sufficient steps to combat international narcotics trafficking: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the President should not make the following certifications pursuant to section 490A(b)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291k(b)(1)):

(1) That Mexico has cooperated fully with United States in controlling narcotic and psychotropic drugs and other controlled substances, and activities relating to such drugs and substances, as set forth in subparagraph (A) of that section.

(2) That vital national interests of the United States require United States assistance to Mexico or multilateral development bank assistance for Mexico.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RETIREMENT OF CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA VUCANOVICH

• Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Congresswoman BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH for her many years of public service, particularly in the House of Representatives. She has represented the State of Nevada's Second District for 14 years and is the first woman from Nevada elected to Federal office.

Representative VUCANOVICH has served in many leadership capacities during her time on Capitol Hill, including her current position as secretary of the House Republican Conference for the 104th Congress. She is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, and chairwoman of the Military Subcommittee. Congresswoman VUCANOVICH is also a member of the Subcommittee on the Interior, the Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies.

As members of the Nevada delegation, Congresswoman VUCANOVICH and I have worked together to prevent the practice of source taxation, which unfairly burdened the residents of our State. Representative VUCANOVICH has also been an ally in our fight to protect Nevada from becoming a high-level nuclear waste repository. She has been active in promoting travel and tourism to benefit Nevada's economy.

Representative VUCANOVICH demonstrated remarkable personal courage in her battle with cancer. She never permitted the disease to slow her down, never missing a congressional vote in the midst of her treatment. She has worked to help increase public awareness of this disease and how it may be detected and treated.

I am pleased to recognize Congresswoman BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH for her many years of public service and dedi-

cation to the State of Nevada and the people she represents, and I wish her and George the very best in the future.●

A VOTE AGAINST THE NINTH CR

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss my vote against the continuing resolution on Friday, January 26.

The CR under which the Government is now operating is the ninth continuing resolution for fiscal 1996. That is four more CR's for 1 fiscal year than we have ever passed before. And we can be sure, come March 15, that we will be traveling down this road again.

This CR continues a dangerous and chaotic policy of haphazardly appropriating funds, while leaving State and local governments, Federal employees, and millions of Americans who depend on the Federal Government uncertain of the future.

This uncertainty can be traced in large part to the fact that months into fiscal 1996, the Republican controlled Congress has yet to complete work on all 13 appropriations bills.

This congressional foot dragging has brought us to the point we're at today: With a CR that is nothing more than a cynical attempt, by those who held the Government hostage and then didn't get their way, to dismantle critically important Federal programs in a piecemeal and indiscriminate fashion.

Let me be clear on one point: I am absolutely committed to balancing the budget. In 1981, I was one of six Senators to vote against President Reagan's budget, which I may add got us into this mess in the first place. I co-sponsored the Gramm-Rudman Deficit Reduction Act and just last October, I was 1 of 19 Senators to vote for the Simon-Conrad bill that would balance the budget in 7 years with CBO numbers.

More important, after the havoc wreaked by the Republicans during the last Government shutdown, I am committed to seeing the Government stay open and Federal employees at their desks.

Continuing resolutions, Government shutdowns, and legislative blackmail are simply no way to run the Federal Government.

The majority party says we must balance the budget to protect our children from inheriting a crushing debt. Yet at the same time we hear this rhetoric, the majority is passing a CR that directly harms our children's future by eliminating \$3.1 billion from education programs—the largest cut in education funding in American history.

Education is not alone. This CR would cut back funding by 25 percent for the Cops on the Beat Program, summer jobs programs for disadvantaged youth, and environmental clean-up. How can this Congress claim it is protecting children at the same time it is cutting money to keep communities safe and our water and air clean?

The majority party came into Washington with the slogan "Promises Made, Promises Kept." Well if their promises were to shut down the Government, eliminate money for education and the environment, cut Medicare and Medicaid, raise taxes on working families, and now hamstringing the Federal Government's efforts to maintain its responsibilities and obligations, then I suppose they have kept their promises.

I am hopeful that at some point in the future we will take our cue from President Clinton's State of the Union call for reconciliation by reaching a bipartisan agreement on how to balance the budget. Until then, this Government will stumble from CR to CR while millions of Americans suffer.●

COMMEMORATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF TEXAS STATEHOOD

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 40, submitted earlier by Senators HUTCHISON and GRAMM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 40) to commemorate the sesquicentennial of Texas statehood.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate a very special event in the history of my State. This recognition is almost identical to one passed by the Texas State Legislature on March 7, 1995.

Just last month, on December 29, 1995, Texas celebrated the sesquicentennial of their statehood. Unlike all other States ever admitted, we gave up the sovereignty of an independent republic to join the Union.

On March 1, 1845, Congress passed a resolution inviting the Republic of Texas to join the Union, and a special convention of Texans met to consider it, under the leadership of Thomas Jefferson Rusk. The convention accepted the offer on July 4, and its decision was ratified by the people in October. We submitted a constitution, which Congress accepted on December 29.

Rusk went on to become the first U.S. Senator from Texas, and I, the great-granddaughter of his law partner, now hold his seat. Taylor and Rusk had signed the Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico in 1836.

Texans mark the 29th, quietly, as the commencement of our statehood, although we didn't lower the Lone Star and post the Stars and Stripes until February 19, 1846. We must have been happy with statehood in 1955, because we expressly renounced the right to fly

the flag of our old Republic at the same level as that of our Union. Our legislature mandated that it fly in a subordinate position, in a manner followed by all other States.

Although independence remains the signal day in Texas history, Texans look upon their statehood with pride, as a means of conferring blessings upon the people of all the States. When Old Glory was raised for the first time in Austin, TX, Anson Jones, the last President of the Republic of Texas, stated with eloquence:

The lone star of Texas, which ten years since arose amid cloud, over fields of carnage, and obscurely shone for a while, and following an inscrutable destiny, has passed on and become fixed forever in that glorious constellation which all . . . lovers of freedom in the world must . . . adore—the American Union. Blending its rays with its sister stars, long may it continue to shine, and may a gracious heaven smile upon this consummation with the wishes of the two republics, now joined together in one.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be considered and agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statement relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 40) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 40

Whereas 1995 marks 150 years since the United States of America admitted Texas as the 28th State in the Union;

Whereas the sesquicentennial of Texas statehood is a truly momentous occasion that allows all Texans to reflect on their State's proud heritage and bright future;

Whereas acting on the advice of President John Tyler, the United States Congress adopted a joint resolution on February 28, 1845, inviting the Republic of Texas to enter the Union as a State with full retention of its public lands; today, a century and a half later, Texas enjoys the distinction of being the only State admitted with such extensive rights;

Whereas the citizens of the Republic of Texas were deeply committed to the goals and ideals embodied in the United States Constitution, and, on June 16, 1845, the Congress of the Republic of Texas was convened by President Anson Jones to consider the proposal of statehood;

Whereas Texas took advantage of the offer, choosing to unite with a large and prosperous Nation that could more effectively defend the borders of Texas and expand its flourishing trade with European countries; by October 1845, the Congress of the Republic of Texas had approved a State constitution, charting a bold new destiny for the Lone Star State;

Whereas the proposed State constitution was sent to Washington, D.C., and on December 29, 1845, the United States of America formally welcomed Texas as a new State; the transfer of governmental authority, however, was not complete until February 19, 1846, when Anson Jones lowered the flag that

had flown above the Capitol for nearly 10 years and stepped down from his position as president of the Republic of Texas; and

Whereas with the poignant retirement of the flag of the Republic, Texas emerged as a blazing Lone Star in America's firmament, taking its place as the 28th State admitted into the Union: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) commemorate the sesquicentennial of Texas statehood; and

(2) encourage all Texans to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities on this historic occasion. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Texas Congressional Delegation, to the Governor of Texas, to the National Archives, and to the Texas Archives.

VA HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ACT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on H.R. 2353, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring authorities of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to delivery of health and medical care, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2353) entitled "An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring authorities of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to delivery of health and medical care, and for other purposes", with the following amendments:

In lieu of the matter inserted by said amendment, insert:

TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES UNDER TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) *AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE PRIORITY HEALTH CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES.*—(1) Section 1710(e)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking out "after June 30, 1995," and all that follows through "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "after December 31, 1996".

(2) Section 1712(a)(1)(D) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995," and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1996".

(b) *DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE.*—Section 1720A(e) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(c) *PILOT PROGRAM FOR NONINSTITUTIONAL ALTERNATIVES TO NURSING HOME CARE.*—Section 1720C(a) of such title is amended by striking out "September 30, 1995," and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(d) *NEGOTIATED INTEREST RATES.*—Section 3703(c)(4) of such title is amended by striking out subparagraph (D).

(e) *MORTGAGES FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT IMPROVEMENTS.*—Section 3710(d) of such title is amended by striking out paragraph (7).

(f) *ENHANCED LOAN ASSET SALE AUTHORITY.*—Section 3720(h)(2) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1996".

(g) *AUTHORITY OF LENDERS OF AUTOMATICALLY GUARANTEED LOANS TO REVIEW APPRAISALS.*—Section 3731(f) of such title is amended by striking out paragraph (3).

(h) *AGREEMENTS FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.*—Section 3735(c) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(i) *USE OF DATA ON COMPENSATION FOR CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS.*—Section 7451(d)(3)(C)(iii) of such title is amended by striking out "April 1, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "January 1, 1998".

(j) *HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.*—Section 7618 of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(k) *ENHANCED-USE LEASES OF REAL PROPERTY.*—Section 8169 of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES UNDER OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.

(a) *AUTHORITY FOR COMMUNITY-BASED RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR HOMELESS CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL VETERANS AND OTHER VETERANS.*—Section 115(d) of the Veterans' Benefits and Services Act of 1988 (38 U.S.C. 1712 note) is amended by striking out "September 30, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(b) *DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM OF COMPENSATED WORK THERAPY.*—Section 7(a) of Public Law 102-54 (38 U.S.C. 1718 note) is amended by striking out "fiscal years 1991 through 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "the period beginning on October 1, 1991, and ending on December 31, 1997".

(c) *SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.*—The Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-590; 38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2, by striking out "September 30, 1995," and inserting in lieu thereof "September 30, 1997";

(2) in section 3(a)—
(A) by inserting "(1)" before "Subject to";
(B) by striking out "fiscal years 1993, 1994, and 1995"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) The authority of the Secretary to make grants under this section expires on September 30, 1997.";

(3) in section 12, by striking out "each of the fiscal years 1993, 1994, and 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "each of fiscal years 1993 through 1997".

(d) *HOMELESS VETERANS' REINTEGRATION PROJECTS.*—(1) Section 738(e)(1) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11448(e)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(D) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1996.".

(2) Section 741 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 11450) is amended by striking out "October 1, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

SEC. 103. RATIFICATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN DURING PERIOD OF EXPIRED AUTHORITY.

Any action taken by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs before the date of the enactment of this Act under a provision of law amended by this title that was taken during the period beginning on the date on which the authority of the Secretary under that provision of law expired and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be considered to have the same force and effect as if the amendment to that provision of law made by this title had been in effect at the time of that action.

TITLE II—OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. CODIFICATION OF HOUSING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND CHANGES IN THEIR FREQUENCY.

(a) *CODIFICATION OF HOUSING RELATED REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.*—(1) Chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 3735 the following new section:

"§3736. Reporting requirements

"The annual report required by section 529 of this title shall include a discussion of the activities under this chapter. Beginning with the report submitted at the close of fiscal year 1996, and every second year thereafter, this discussion shall include information regarding the following: